

Application serial No. 10/646,794
Examiner: Saether Flemming
Art Unit: 3677

Applicant: Techmech Technologies Corp.

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

Claims 1-6 are pending of which claim 1 has been amended for more explicitly describing the claimed invention. Amendment to claim 1 is fully supported Figure 7. Therefore, it is believed that no new matter adds by way of amendments made to claims or otherwise to the application. For at least the following reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-6 are in proper condition for allowance and reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

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Claim Rejection under 35 USC 112

The Office Action rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In rejecting the above claims, the Examiner stated that in claim 1, the paragraph beginning at line 6, there is no antecedent basis for "said securing set" and it is unclear what is intended by the resilient member being buckled to the outer part of the securing set.

In response thereto, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for pointing out the informalities and accordingly amended claim 1. After entry of the amendments to claim 1, it is believed that the above rejections can be overcome. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC 103

The Office Action rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter APA) and Ernest et al. (US-3,465,803, hereinafter Ernest).

In rejecting the above claims, the Examiner stated that APA discloses a fixing member that is similar to the claimed invention except for the thread at the top of the securing set and bottom of the flange. However, the Examiner relied upon Ernest to show equivalence of buckle (449, Fig. 14) and a thread (520, Fig. 15) in a fixing member. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to replace the buckle of prior art with a thread in view of the teaching of Ernest because the thread would be advantageous over the buckle since thread would

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allow for removal and that once the combination was made, the thread would inherently include supporting portions.

Applicant respectfully disagrees and traverses the above rejections as set forth below. The proposed amended independent claim 1 is allowable for at least the reason that APA and Ernest substantially fail to teach, suggest or disclose every features of the claimed invention. More specifically, APA and Ernest substantially fail to teach, suggest or disclose a fixing member comprising at least "a securing set, having a through hole and a plurality buckling grooves at a bottom end thereof, wherein at a top flange of said securing set has a corresponding external threaded portion for engaging with said internal threaded portion of said knob, and [wherein when said internal threaded portion of said bottom flange of said knob is engaged with said external threaded portion of said top flange of said securing set, the entire screw element is positioned within said through hole of said securing set and said knob]", as required by the amended claim 1. The advantage of retaining the entire screw element within the knob and the through hole of the securing set is that the screw element can be well protected within the knob and the securing set from the risk of being damaged by the external forces. Furthermore, when the plurality of buckling grooves of the securing set can be fixed to, for example, a (first plate) shell of a motor, and because the entire screw element is positioned within the knob and the through hole of the securing set, therefore the fixing member is not misplaced or drops to the places where it is difficult to access by the maintenance personnel. Furthermore, the shell can be conveniently placed on the floor after disassembly thereof from the motor without the risk of undesirably

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deforming the screw member or damaging the external threaded portion of the shank of the screw member. Furthermore, because the screw member can be easily separated from the securing set and the knob, therefore, the screw member can be easily replaced.

To the contrary, APA, in Figure 11, substantially shows that when the screw head A is buckled with the protruded flange B1, the end portion of the shank of the screw element substantially protrudes out of the positioning set B. In other words, APA substantially fails to teach, suggest or disclose that the entire screw element is positioned within the positioning set B ~~and the screw head~~. Accordingly, APA cannot meet the claimed invention in this regard.

Furthermore, the screw head A is integrally formed with the shank. In other words, APA also substantially fails to teach a knob that can be engagingly surround the screw element as required by the amended proposed independent claim 1. Accordingly, APA cannot meet the claimed invention in this regard as well.

Furthermore, Ernest also fails to teach, suggest or hint that the entire screw element can be retained within the cylindrical retainer (18) in Figure 3, instead Ernest substantially shows that the length or height of the shank of the screw element is substantially longer or higher than the height of the retainer (18). Therefore, the combination of APA and Ernest, in a manner suggested by the Office Action, at least fails to teach, suggest or hint "the entire screw element is positioned within said through hole of said securing set and said knob when the knob is engaged to the securing set as required by the amended proposed claim 1".

Furthermore, the combination of APA and Ernest also fails to teach a knob

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that engagingly surrounds the screw element as required by claim 1, instead, APA substantially teaches that the screw head (A) is integrally formed with the shank of the screw element. Therefore, the combination of APA and Ernest substantially fail to teach, suggest or hint every features of the claimed invention as claimed in the proposed amended independent claim 1.

Claims 2-6, directly or indirectly dependent claim 1, are also patentable over APA and Ernest for at least their dependency over an allowable base claim.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-6 patently define over APA and Ernest, and therefore should be allowed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted

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